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REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have made a claim for priority which includes each of the following prior applications:

- a. pending U.S. Serial No. 09/671,100, filed September 27, 2000;
- b. PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/07175, filed April 1, 1999;
- c. U.S. Serial No. 09/053,871, filed April 1, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,315,995 B1, issued November 13, 2001;
- d. PCT International Application No. PCT/US97/17229, filed September 25, 1997; and
- e. U.S. Serial No. 08/721,447, filed September 27, 1996.

As indicated, U.S. Serial No. 09/671,100 is currently pending and in U.S. Serial No. 09/671,100 priority of each of the aforementioned applications was claimed. See a copy of the official filing receipt attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. Importantly, contents of each of applications (c), (d), and (e) were incorporated by reference. See copy of page 1 of U.S. Serial No. 09/671,100 attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. Accordingly, applicants' claim herein is proper. Because PCT International Application No. PCT/US97/17229 was incorporated by reference into U.S. Serial No. 09/671,100, applicants have filed a copy of PCT International Application PCT/US97/17229 as the specification and claims for the subject application.

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To be consistent with the subject matter now being claimed applicants have amended the Title.

As part of this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have amended the specification to refer to the figures for clarity. These amendments raise no issue of new matter. A marked-up version of the amended specification is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**.

Applicants have also canceled claims 1-45 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims, and have added new claims 46-88. Support for new claim 46 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 5-9. Support for new claims 47 and 48 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 11-13. Support for new claims 49-51 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 15-18. Support for new claim 52 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 19-20. Support for new claim 53 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, line 18. Support for new claim 54 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 34-37 and page 21, lines 1 and 2. Support for new claim 55 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 31-34. Support for new claim 56 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 22-24. Support for new claim 57 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 25-26. Support for new claim 58 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 26-28. Support for new claim 59 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 28-29. Support for new claim 60 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 29-31. Support

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for new claims 61 and 62 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 19, lines 25-28. Support for new claim 63 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 4-10. Support for new claim 64 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 12-14. Support for new claim 65 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 14-16. Support for new claim 66 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 5-9 and page 21, lines 9-10. Support for new claim 67 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 136, lines 3-21. Support for new claim 68 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 5-9; page 111, lines 10-15; and page 111, lines 27-32. Support for new claim 69 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 12-16, and page 136, lines 3-21. Support for new claim 70 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 4-10. Support for new claims 71 and 72 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 11-13. Support for new claim 73 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 110, lines 10-13; and page 101, lines 27-32. Support for new claim 74 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 15-20; and page 111, lines 10-11. Support for new claim 75 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 12-16; and page 111, lines 10-36. Support for new claim 76 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 21-27; and page 21, lines 1 and 2. Support for new claims 77 and 78 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 5-9. Support for new claim 79 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 4-10. Support for new claims 80 and 81 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 11-13. Support for new claims 82-87 may be

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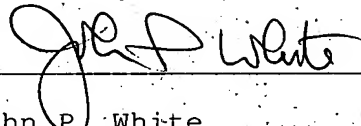
found *inter alia* in the specification on page 20, lines 15-20. Support for new claim 88 may be found *inter alia* in the specification on page 21, lines 28-35.

Applicants maintain that new claims 46-88 raise no issue of new matter, and request entry of these claims.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed filing fee of \$1752.00 (750 + 414 [total] + 588 [ind]), is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment and the accompanying application. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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